

Just last year the House took a step forward by passing the VA Accountability Act of 2015, H.R. 1994, legislation that I cosponsored that would make important reforms to the VA system, which will provide the necessary resources and the flexibility the VA needs to hold poor-performing employees accountable.

While I believe that the VA has 99 percent of employees generally caring about the work they do and want to help veterans, we must always ensure that the other 1 percent of those who are not acting in the best interest of veterans are held accountable. Our veterans deserve only the highest quality of care at our VA facilities.

Fighting for our veterans who fought for us always has been and will always be one of my top priorities. I will continue my work in Congress to improve our veterans' quality of care in any way that I can.

RECOGNIZING KEY WEST FIRE DEPARTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Key West Fire Department on their Class 1 Insurance Service Office rating, the highest achievable rating that a fire department can attain.

They are 1 out of fewer than 200 departments in the Nation to receive this score, which is based off of a multitude of factors, including training, response time, and how well they are equipped.

This rating also helps by providing residents with the lowest fire insurance rates possible, something I am sure that all Key West residents appreciate.

I commend Fire Chief David Fraga and the entire Key West Fire Department on their diligent work and their devotion to keeping everyone in Key West safe. We are very fortunate to have a strong team of firefighters protecting us.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Florida Keys Marathon Airport for officially becoming an international airport on April 20, 2016.

For 8 years the staff has worked to attain this clarification. It comes as no surprise to me that they were able to achieve this feat. I commend the Florida Keys Marathon Airport on receiving this well-deserved designation. This airport will provide additional travel options for the families living in our community and the millions of tourists who visit south Florida every year.

Congratulations to Mayor Senmartin, Vice Mayor Kelly, council members Zieg, Coldiron, and Bartus, and city manager Chuck Lindsey and, also, former Mayor Ramsey and former city manager Mike Puto, all who worked very hard to make this a reality.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER MARIO GUTIERREZ

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miami-Dade Police Department's own Officer Mario Gutierrez, who received the Medal of Valor, the highest decoration of honor given to public safety officers in the United States.

In 2013, Officer Gutierrez was on a routine call when he noticed an individual exhibiting strange behavior at a gas station near Miami International Airport. As Officer Gutierrez approached, the man attempted to light a gas pump on fire. In an attempt to disarm the assailant, who was holding a knife, Gutierrez received several stab wounds that nearly cost him his life.

Had the assailant been successful in causing a mass fire, many lives may have been lost on that day. Officer Gutierrez went above and beyond the call of duty to protect the members of our community. We thank him for his service, his selflessness, and his bravery in the face of danger.

Officer Gutierrez, thank you. You are a true hero.

RECOGNIZING MR. BRIAN REEDY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian Reedy, a seventh grade visual arts teacher from Zelda Glazer Middle School in my south Florida congressional district.

In 2014, Mr. Reedy became the visual arts instructor at Zelda Glazer and, in only 2 years, has propelled the program to national recognition. Mr. Reedy has received numerous accolades for his work at Zelda Glazer, with his fellow teachers referring to the work of his students as magnet quality. His classroom, however, does not require an application to enter like many art magnet programs in south Florida. Any student can register.

Students have had their art pieces showcased from local shows in Miami all the way to the New York Scholastic Art Awards. What is even more impressive is that Mr. Reedy works with a wide range of talents, including those just getting started to people who have been painting for many years.

As a former Miami-Dade County School Board member, I always appreciate and support teachers who encourage our youth to explore their passions in life, and Mr. Reedy does just that. It is an honor to recognize Mr. Reedy for his great work at Zelda Glazer. I look forward to both his and his students' future successes.

HONORING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, along with many of my colleagues, I rise today to honor National Police Week.

One of the favorite things that I get to do as a Member of Congress is to ride with police officers as they go about their duties, and from St. George

to Salt Lake City I have had the opportunity to do this.

Sadly, many in our society, particularly among the press, have become highly critical of law enforcement officers. Now, I recognize that not all law enforcement officers are perfect. People make mistakes. We all do. But we can't let the mistakes of a few tarnish the name of such a noble and a brave profession.

Such criticism of police efforts doesn't come without a cost. It forces the officers to pull back, to become overly cautious, and to view every encounter that they may have through the prism of a lens of a media event.

What is the result of this? We now know that crime rates have been rising across the country. Interestingly and sadly, they are rising in some of the poorest communities, the communities that most need the help of an effective police force.

Now more than ever we need brave men and women who are willing to serve and to protect. As I have said, I have had the chance to go on several ride-alongs with several police departments. Again and again I have been impressed with their hard work, their professionalism, and their willingness to put themselves at risk to protect other people.

There is a great example of this. I am reminded of the heroic actions of Officer Hone, a police officer who in the last year saved two young girls in Salt Lake City. A disturbed man who had recently been released from prison and was on drugs broke into the home of two sisters, both of them college students. He began to viciously attack them. He took a knife and attempted to take their lives.

Fortunately, Officer Hone was in the area, heard the screams of these young girls, and just seconds before the intruder expected to take the life of one of them, this heroic officer quickly diffused the situation, literally saving her life.

Bree, the sister who was saved, said of this officer, "He was so professional and calm. Right when we made eye contact, I knew I was safe. It's a miracle that he had so much composure. He was our angel."

This is just one example of the thousands of courageous police officers we have in America. I am proud to live in a country where professionals are ready to put their lives at risk in order to serve and to protect members of their community.

Let us honor these police officers, their courage, their selflessness, and their dedication. Let us honor them not just this week, but, frankly, all year round for the sacrifices they make for us.

HONORING SALLY CLARK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sally Clark, who was part of the class of 1963 at East High School in Des Moines, Iowa. I never knew her as Sally Clark because I knew her as Sally Davis, my mother.

I am very appreciative that the class of 1963 allowed my mom to be part of a reunion in July of 1993 because my mom never graduated with that class. Sally Clark dropped out of high school in 1962 and eventually finished her degree much later by getting her general equivalency diploma with the help of my sister, who was the reason she dropped out of high school in 1962.

In looking at the program from that reunion in 1993, the fondest memories my mom had of East High School were the friends she left behind. In 1977, she left not only friends behind, but she left family behind and moved our family to Taylorville, Illinois, where I grew up and where she inspired so many.

My mom passed away 17 years ago today. The reason I am here is because of the inspiration she was to me and to so many. I want to tell her what I couldn't tell her on Mother's Day: Your family is doing great. Your granddaughter, who you knew as a 2-year-old, just finished her freshman year of college. The grandsons you never met are doing fine as freshmen in high school. Mom, your whole family is doing well. As a matter of fact, you have a great-granddaughter now that shares your middle name. I am here on the House floor to fight to make sure that we work in a bipartisan way to end the scourge of the cancer that killed you and that has killed so many, young and old. We will never forget this fight and I will never forget that fight because of what you meant to me and to so many. Mom, I love you and I miss you every day. You are the reason that I get this privilege to be a Member of this great institution.

HONORING DR. FRANCES BARTLETT KINNE, PH.D.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life work of Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne, Ph.D. We in Jacksonville, Florida, will be celebrating 99 years with our friend, Dr. Fran Kinne, on May 22 of this year.

Dr. Kinne is first in Florida in many ways. In 1979, she became the first woman president of a Florida college, Jacksonville University, JU. Prior, in 1961, she became the founding dean of JU's College of Fine Arts, the first woman in Florida to hold such a position. In fact, it was her idea to form the college where she had been a humanities professor for several years.

She was the first woman elected as president of the International Council of Fine Arts, and not only the first woman in Florida's first rotary club,

the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, but she later became the first woman president of that club. She also became the first woman member of a club in Jacksonville called the River Club. Again, the first woman member.

As you can tell, Dr. Fran Kinne was first in many ways and a role model to not only women in Jacksonville, Florida, but all across this great country. To those of us who know her well, she is also first in our hearts. A tireless advocate for education and young people, Fran Kinne always reminded us that life is not about us, life is about others.

She would tell her graduates each year to go out into the world and make the world a better place. One of those graduates, Tim Cost, is now the president of Jacksonville University.

So many of her students have made a difference not only in Florida, but all across this great land. Last year, at the age of 98, she became the Nation's oldest commencement speaker at a major college or university.

The wife of an army colonel, Fran spent years overseas following World War II. She was in Germany, she was in Japan, and she was in China. While her husband worked, so did Fran. She created postwar education programs for children in Japan, and she went to class with young German students who accepted her as the caring American that she was.

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She numbered among her friends Bob Hope, Winston Churchill, Charlton Heston, Billy Graham, and Steve Forbes. Fran Kinne brought Bob Hope and Jack Benny together for their only joint appearance, and that was at Jacksonville University. She is listed in over 25 "Who's Who" and similar publications, and six facilities in Iowa and Florida are named in her honor. Her autobiography is aptly named "Iowa Girl: The President Wears a Skirt."

Never intending to live in Florida, Fran came here with her husband, and, thankfully, for those of us in Jacksonville, she never left. She was born in Iowa. She was educated at Drake University and graduated with a bachelor's and a master's in music education. She remains a member of the Board of Trustees at Drake University and is on the board of the Mayo Clinic in Florida. Since 1994, she has been the chancellor emeritus at Jacksonville University.

Her infectious enthusiasm for life and positive thinking goes on and on. I visited her the other day, and she reminded me: If you laugh 100 times a day, that is the same thing as 20 minutes of physical exercise. She would say: If you keep a positive attitude and if you smile a lot, that will add 10 years to your life. Fran and I have always been good buddies, and she has been a mentor to me just as she has been to thousands of her former students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of this House to join me in celebrating

the outstanding 99 years and counting of one of Florida's most outstanding citizens: my good buddy, Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne.

CONGRATULATING DONNA EISENMAN ON HER RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Donna Eisenman, who recently retired after 40 years in working for American Airlines' Washington desk.

Donna Eisenman began her career as a flight attendant with Trans World Airlines in 1969. A year later, she transitioned to American Airlines for a position as a reservations agent in Philadelphia. In a time before computers, Donna effortlessly sold airline tickets and helped customers with travel arrangements.

In 1972, Donna moved to Washington, D.C., to start the next phase of her career. Donna spent the next 10 years working at the City Ticket Office and at the ticket counter at Reagan National Airport. In 1982, she transitioned to the Schedule Airline Ticket Office, which served DOD customers in northern Virginia.

Donna's efforts were so successful that she was asked to open a different satellite office to assist Fort Belvoir travelers. Later, Donna was asked to reestablish a long-abandoned desk specifically designed to help government travelers. Donna accepted this challenge, and the American Airlines Washington desk was reborn.

For the next 28 years, Donna's unyielding commitment to customer service and her natural sales ability provided government and frequent travelers with the best experience in the industry. On March 25, Donna retired from American Airlines, and she is now spending time with her lovely family and is volunteering for the wildlife rescue causes that she champions.

I thank Donna for her service and dedication.

Congratulations, Donna. I wish you all the best in your much-deserved retirement.

HONORING LOURDES SOVEDIA

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the outstanding career of Lourdes Sovedia. After 40 years of teaching, Lourdes will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Like me, Lourdes' family fled the oppressive Castro regime when she was just a young girl in order to seek freedom and refuge in this wonderful Nation, the United States. She worked hard at learning the language and the culture, and with inspiration from her mom, she dedicated her life to pursuing a career in education. After working her way through college, Lourdes made her American Dream a reality when she became a full-time teacher at Gesu